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THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD

Katherine Burton,
Delineator of Personalities

Best Sellers of 1943

Detroit's Catholic Library

Teach Biography,
Particularly the Lives of
the Saints

Vol. 15, NO. 5

FEBRUARY, 1944

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CONTENTS

The Catholic Library World
Vol. 15 February - 1944 No. 5

Contemporary Catholic Authors:	
Katherine Burton, Delineator of Personalities	131
Sister Mary Luella, O.P.	
Best Sellers of 1943	
Leonard N. Wolf, Ph.D. and	136
Eugene P. Willging	
Detroit's Catholic Library	
Ruth M. Gerbig	145
Teaching Biography, Particularly the	
Lives of the Saints	149
Sister Mary Mark	
News and Notes	
152	
New Books	
158	

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Contemporary Catholic Authors: Katherine Burton, Delineator of Personalities

By SISTER MARY LUELLA, O.P., Lecturer,
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An arresting phenomenon in the present day publishing field is the large number of biographies which flood the market each year. In 1943 the total number of new titles and new editions in this field amounted to 473 in the United States alone, or approximately six percent of all American book production for the year.¹ The reading pattern of a large number of the clients of our public libraries and patrons of our book stores reflects this trend in publishing. Biographies in vast quantities are not only appearing in print but they are being read. This publishing and reading trend has a beneficent and a harmful side. Gerald G. Walsh's indictment of the false philosophies of life which are an undercurrent in many recent biographies, and his comments on the menace of this modern literary form are tersely stated: "Millions of Americans minds are feeding on ignorance, mendacity, and sophistry just at a time when our society is ceasing to read philosophy or practice religion".² Jeannette Eaton, who has made notable contributions to hagiography in her *Jeanne d'Arc, the Warrior Saint*³ and *The Flame, Saint Catherine of Siena*,⁴ reveals the greatest worth of the biographer's art: "To live with heroes for

a time is to know beyond doubt and terror how strong is goodness. For old and young the supreme value of reading biography is this assurance. To watch those who have walked ahead is to know that we ourselves need not falter".⁵ By implication Miss Eaton here defines the apostolate of the biographer.

Among the authors who in the past decade have enabled us "to live with heroes for a time" is Katherine Burton. Mrs. Burton was born in Cleveland in 1890. Western Reserve University is her alma mater. At present Mrs. Burton resides with her husband and three children in Bronxville, New York.

On the feast of Our Lady's nativity, 1929, Mrs. Burton was received into the Catholic Church. Her harassing doubts as an Anglican and the difficulty of embracing the tremendous reality of Catholicism Mrs. Burton revealed a decade of years later. "I was still not sure that I was not taking a wrong step, still wanting often to be back in the home from which I had deliberately walked out and from which voices were still calling me to return".⁶ As she knelt beside her godmother on the morning of her baptism she beheld the statue of Christ with "His arms outstretched as if in welcome. It

1. American book production, 1943. *Publisher's Weekly*, CVL (January 22, 1944), 296.

2. "The Menace of Modern Biography." *Modern Schoolman*, IX (March, 1932), 52.

3. Harper, 1931.

4. Harper, 1931.

5. "A Biographer's Perilous Joy." *Horn Book*, XVIII (March, 1942), 125.

6. "The Arms Outstretched That Would Welcome Them." *America*, LXI (July 29, 1939), 366-7.

was this which made me know that I was at home. An uncertain guest, I had stood at the threshold, wondering whether to go in and wondering whether I was really wanted inside . . . and now here was the Owner of the House, standing at His own rooftop welcoming me in. From that moment I knew no doubts, and I have known none since". Only one who has experienced the exacting ordeal of conversion can have a perfect instinct of at-homeness with other converts. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of Mrs. Burton's recent writing has recorded the life stories of noted converts—men and women who lived unspectacular lives in the eyes of men, but heroic lives in the service of God.

The literary career begun in her college days, Katherine Burton has continued through her later years. She was successively the associate editor of *McCall's Magazine* (1928-30) and *Redbook* (1930-33). In 1934 Mrs. Burton resigned her editorship to devote herself to free lance writing. She has been a frequent contributor of articles, short stories, and verses to Catholic and secular periodicals: *Catholic World*, *Commonweal*, *Sign*, *Truth*, *Missionary*, *Cosmopolitan*, and others. Many of her verses appeared in *Living Church* in the late twenties. Franklin P. Adams selected them to head his column "Conning Tower" in the *New York World* a dozen times. Since August, 1933, Mrs. Burton has conducted the "Woman to Woman" page in *Sign*. This popular column has treated a variety of subjects ranging from the latest styles in hats and a recipe for soup to the ethics of a best seller, women and the O.P.A., and the Pope at the peace table. On religious issues Mrs. Burton's articles manifest a zeal for the Catholic cause, and on the contemporary scene her approach is

from the feminine viewpoint—were it within her power Mrs. Burton would have mothers at the peace conference to temper the justice of the diplomat with the tenderness of a woman.

Mrs. Burton's book-writing career dates from the midtwenties when there appeared under the title *The Circus Lady* a biography of Josephine De Mott Robinson, the world famous bareback rider. This modest account of Josie's youthful success under the big top, her spectacular performances in the Barnum and Bailey shows, and her sensational reentry into the ring after fifteen years of private life as a Congressman's wife is a fascinating story. Although the Crowell Company presented the book as the autobiography of Mrs. Robinson, it was in reality the product of Mrs. Burton's pen. Few of those who have enjoyed this vivid word portrait of a traveling circus are aware of its true authorship.

Katherine Burton's initial book under her own name, *Sorrow Built a Bridge*, appeared in 1937, eleven years after the publication of *The Circus Lady*. During the interval, as noted above, the author had embraced Catholicism. Presenting with warm-hearted appreciation the life of Nathaniel Hawthorne's youngest daughter, Rose, Mrs. Burton gave promise in this second book of writing successfully popular biographies of noted American Catholics. With simplicity the author portrays the Hawthorne family circle in the literary and social milieu of Concord, Boston, New York, and Rome. She affords the reader an intimate glimpse of many of the novelist's distinguished friends, the Alcotts, Emerson, Ticknor, and Thoreau. Dominating the Protestant scene is the young daughter whom her father affectionately called "the Rose of all the Hawthornes". There is, however,

little in the opening chapters to presage the development of the saintly personality, Mother Alphonsa, who was later to give such powerful impetus to American Catholic charities.

The sorrow which built the bridge into the infinite for Rose Hawthorne came with wifehood and young motherhood. The sudden death of her only child and the separation from her husband, George Parsons Lathrop, with whom she had been received into the Catholic Church in 1891, developed into action the spiritual heritage of the woman whose father had written: "Human beings owe a debt of love to one another, because there is no other method of paying the debt of love and care all of us owe to Providence".⁷ The ensuing dedication of her life to the alleviation of the sufferings of destitute cancer patients strongly parallels the heroic renunciation of another indefatigable champion of suffering humanity, Damien of Molokai. With keen sympathy and tenderness Mrs. Burton has presented her study of this gentle, firm New Englander, whose glorious achievement was the permanent foundation of the Dominican Congregation of the Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer, which today has homes in New York, Philadelphia, St. Paul, Fall River, and Atlanta.

Paradise Planters (1939) is the life history, not of an individual, but of one of the most exhilarating social and intellectual movements of nineteenth century America—Brook Farm. The work is a real contribution to American cultural history. Though her approach is not profoundly philosophical, Katherine Burton has paid the Brook Farmers the compliment of careful research and understand-

ing. She has told the story informally through the medium of stimulating conversations, which, the author is careful to point out, are taken from authentic sources. From the winter of 1840 when George Ripley, a one-time Unitarian rector in Boston, purchased the Farm and inaugurated the Utopian experiment, to its failure in 1847 we are permitted to follow at close range the simple and austere lives of these New England idealists: the Ripleys, the Channings, Charles Dana, Horace Greeley, Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Isaac Hecker, Orestes Brownson and other residents and guests of the Farm engaged in menial tasks of milking cows, hoeing potatoes, and baking bread, as well as in cultural pursuits and earnest seeking for spiritual anchorage. Three distinguished converts journeyed to Rome via Brook Farm—Hecker, Brownson, and Sophia Ripley. Helen C. White comments on the book: "New Englanders who were brought up on the legend of Brook Farm will read Katherine Burton's book with delight; and those who have never heard anything but the name of that high adventure will have a new experience of a very rewarding sort. . . . It leaves the reader with respect and liking for all the people involved, even for those specimens of humanity whom he might have found a little trying on too close acquaintance".⁸

The charming Elizabeth Seton, successively a wife, a mother, a widow, a convert, and a foundress of a religious congregation, has attracted many biographers, but it is doubtful if a more warm-hearted recital of her colorful life than *His Dear Persuasion* (1940) has been published. The life story of beautiful Betty Bailey, a favorite of New York's social set, the

7. N. Hawthorne, "The Miraculous Pitcher", in his *Works* (Houghton, Mifflin, 1883), IV, 142.

8. *Catholic Historical Review*, XXV (Oct., 1939), 364-5.

tender wife of William Seton, the devoted mother of five children makes delightful reading. Adversity, however, was to reveal Elizabeth's true stature. Her serenity and trust in God during the illness and death of her husband in Italy caused a chance observer in that Catholic country to remark of Elizabeth who had been reared in Episcopalianism: "If she were not a heretic she would be a saint". Shortly after her return to New York, Mrs. Seton defied the hostility of her family and the ostracism of her former friends and embraced the Catholic faith. A pleasing intimacy informs the narrative as Elizabeth's spirituality bursts into bloom. Perfect abandonment to the designs of Providence, His dear persuasion, became her motivating force. The loss of the Seton fortune made it necessary for Elizabeth to earn a livelihood for herself and her children. She accepted the invitation of Father Dubourg, a Sulpician from St. Mary's Seminary, to open a Catholic school for girls in Baltimore. Her efforts which culminated in the foundation at Emmitsburg of the Sisters of Charity, the first sisterhood established on American soil, have contributed immeasurably to the cause of Catholic education in the United States. Thousands are now praying for the canonization of Mother Seton, and with Father Feeney we anticipate the joy of addressing this American woman as "St. Elizabeth of New York".

With the same enthusiasm that she displayed in her biographies of Mother Alphonsa and Mother Seton, two years later Mrs. Burton wrote short biographical sketches of American converts published under the title *In No Strange Land* (1942). Here we have vivid word pictures of fifteen converts to Catholicism during the nineteenth and early twen-

tieth centuries: Levi Ives, promoter of Catholic charities in New York; Brownson, booming champion of the faith; Father Hecker and his early confreres; James Kent Stone who became Father Fidelis of the Cross; Ira Dutton, the heroic Brother Joseph of Molokai; Father Tabb, lyric poet of the South; Lewis Watson who, as Father Paul James Francis, established the Society of the Atonement at Graymoor; Father Francis Farmer, Jesuit missionary in China; Seldon Peabody Delaney, one time rector of the Episcopalian church of Saint Mary the Virgin in New York. Six women are included in the collection, four of whom, Cornelia Connolly, Lucy Smith, Rose Lathrop, and Marion Gurney, became foundresses of religious congregations, and two, Sarah Peter and Sophia Ripley, lay apostles among the poor and needy. Many of these men and women have had their life stories chronicled singly and at greater length elsewhere, but the dominant hue of this brilliant spectrum from the pen of Katherine Burton is the decisive courage with which these heroic souls put first things first. Naturally the itineraries of these clear thinking, noble men and women were highly diversified. Indeed their very diversity acclaims the universal appeal of the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No blueprint for conversion has yet been plotted, and this collection furnishes abundant testimony that "the Spirit breatheth where He will".

In *Paradise Planters* Mrs. Burton describes briefly but with sympathetic clarity Isaac Hecker, for a short period the baker at Brook Farm. Happily his personality charmed her into presenting his full-length portrait in *Celestial Homespun* (1943). The opening scenes show us the Hecker household, Isaac and his two older brothers who managed a baking es-

tablishment on Rutgers Street, New York, their father, and their dyed-in-the-wool Methodist mother. Even as a young lad Isaac, who attended his mother's church, was seeking a more satisfying faith. In the bake shop at the age of sixteen he began his long and harrowing spiritual pilgrimage which terminated some nine years later within the portals of the Catholic Church. To Hecker the receiving of the faith brought the mission of extending the faith, and his vision became a Church truly Catholic yet vitally American. He joined the Redemptorists, was ordained a priest in 1849, and together with five fellow Redemptorists began his apostolate of preaching and teaching among English speaking Americans. But his life work was to lay the foundation of another congregation, the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, familiarly known as the Paulist Fathers, the first missionary congregation in the United States. Realizing the power of the press, Hecker began the *Catholic World* to carry a message not only of a constructive nature which would vitalize the faith of those within the fold, but also of an apologetic nature which would enlighten those in the darkness of modern philosophy. The panoramic view of the background of the period which Mrs. Burton portrays makes the book a valuable contribution to popular Catholic historiography.

In Mrs. Burton's most recent biography, *Brother André of Mount Royal* (1943), she has chosen for the first time to treat a man who is not a convert nor a citizen of the United States. The humble lay brother of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, our contemporary whom thousands today revere as the "miracle man of Montreal", labored throughout his long life to spread devotion to St. Joseph. That

his efforts were phenomenally successful is silently attested by the magnificent basilica to his patron on Mount Royal. Unlike Bernadette of Lourdes, Brother André was favored with no apparition bidding him erect a shrine; his own undaunted conviction that devotion to the Patron of the Universal Church should be increased made him ingenious in his efforts. Many were the medals of the Saint which he buried at the foot of the oak tree on the site he had selected for his oratory, and numerous were the offerings which poured into the little mite box on the mount, the "mighty prie-dieu" from which his prayers ascended. To the ever increasing throng of pilgrims who sought his aid, Brother André advised: "Rub yourself with the oil and medal of St. Joseph. Make a novena and persevere in prayer to the saint". Those who visit Mount Royal today may see hundreds of crutches of invalids healed by St. Joseph through the intermediary of his ardent apostle—incontestable evidence that the affection of Brother André for St. Joseph was a reciprocal one. The preliminary process for the beatification of this saintly lay brother has been begun. Mrs. Burton's biography should win for him devoted clients and help to further his cause.

Mrs. Burton is now at work on a biography of James Kent Stone. Those who know Father Fidelis of the Cross from his autobiography, *An Awakening and What Followed*,⁹ will welcome a fresh treatment of this delightful personality from the productive pen of Katherine Burton.

The author of the books briefly summarized here has developed a new biographical technique which permits the

(Continued on page 156)

9. Ave Maria Press, 1920.

Best Sellers of 1943

By LEONARD N. WOLF, PH.D. and
EUGENE P. WILLGING, Co-Editors, *Best Sellers*,
University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania

MORAL SUMMARY

As in last year's article, "Best Sellers of 1942", we will attempt a summary of the moral worth of the best sellers of 1943. However, last year we limited our evaluation to sixty novels; this year we are analyzing the reviews of all fiction and non-fiction titles on the *New York Herald Tribune* list in its literary supplement *Books*. Before giving any figures it is again necessary to state that these evaluations are based upon reviews that appear in the semi-monthly issues of *Best Sellers*. Those reviews are generally composed of two distinct sections:

1. A synopsis of the book giving as thoroughly as possible within space allotments the plot of novels and an adequate synopsis of non-fiction titles. In this portion of the review there is no major attempt to pass judgment although it is likely that many of the elements in the synopsis will be included because of their bearing on the morality of the book. For an example, see the account of St. Paul's conversion in the review of Asch's *Apostle* (*Best Sellers*, Oct. 1, 1943).

2. After having told what is in the book, the reviewer passes judgment on the moral worth of the title. Here it should be carefully noted that the prime objective is a moral evaluation of the titles under review. It is not

the only objective because often it is necessary to pass an opinion on its literary value. But when the full review is classified under one of the four major headings appearing in the Abridged Series (corresponding to the National Legion of Decency List of moving pictures, with which it has no affiliation) it becomes necessary to base placement solely upon moral worth, unless, of course, we introduced sub-classifications based upon secondary values. So far no attempt has been made to do this other than in the section of books "Recommended to Adults Only" where the first division is allotted to books of content and style "too advanced for adolescents" while the second division is that for books containing incidents or implications of immorality. As an *obiter dictum* we wish to remark that "immorality" is not synonymous with "sexual immorality"; anything opposed to the ten commandments is immoral or against the moral law. Thus, the rationalization of miracles, found in *The ten commandments*, Asch's *The apostle*, and Douglas' *The robe*, represent instances of immorality; profanity, sadism, avarice, sloth, etc., are other instances, in addition to sexual immorality such as adultery, that affect the moral classification. Rather than elaborate upon other bases for moral evaluation of books we

refer the reader to that comprehensive series of articles which appeared in *America* late last year under the title "Tenets for Reviewers" by Harold C. Gardiner, S.J.

There is, however, one additional point we must introduce. Generally, only one person reviews a particular book for *Best Sellers*; thus the review is "one man's opinion"; often that person is not in the city where *Best Sellers* is published and cannot be consulted for the classification of the book in the *Abridged Series*, the one page list corresponding to the Legion of Decency List. There may, and often do, arise differences of opinion as to the classification of a title. We recall three instances when we changed classifications, viz., Willkie's *One world* from Class IV to IIa; Douglas' *The robe* from I to IIb; and Rich's *We took to the woods* from I to IIa. In each case the opinions of other competent reviewers added new points to the original review which seemed to justify a change in classification. Thus, in the matter of reviewing books we are forced in the beginning to rely upon one review. Unlike movies where five hundred persons may sit in judgment simultaneously upon a picture, books are not available for review in sufficient quantity to allow for mass judgment; to some slight extent we must sacrifice relative certainty in judgment in order to get an opinion to subscribers quickly. Three alterations of judgment in two years among four hundred titles reviewed represent a very slight margin of change.

What, then, are the figures analyzing the best sellers of 1943? Using the same headings that appear in the *Abridged Series* we have these totals:

I. Suitable for Family Reading:			
	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total
	18	33	51
IIa. Suitable for Adults Only Because of Content and Style Too Advanced for Adolescents:			
	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total
	11	46	57
IIb. Suitable for Adults Only Because of Immoral Incidents Which Do Not Invalidate the Book as a Whole:			
	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total
	27	13	40
III. Unsuitable for General Reading but Permissible for Discriminating Adults:			
	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total
	33	9	42
IV. Not Recommended to Any Class of Reader:			
	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total
	17	4	21
Books Not Reviewed in <i>Best Sellers</i> or Other Major Catholic Periodicals and on Which No Moral Evaluation Has Been Made:			
	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Total
	3	19	22

As the above tables indicate, in fiction there are far fewer titles suitable for family reading or general adult reading than in non-fiction. About 20% of novels are suitable for the family; about 60% (as in 1942) are suitable for adult reading. This "suitability" refers only to relative lack of immorality; if one added to the moral criterion that of literary value, it would be easy to cut these figures in half. Most of these best sellers are not distinguished because of good writing. There is an occasional title like the novels by Howard Fast, Fuller's *Shining trail*, Lothar's *Beneath another sun*, Saroyan's *Human*

comedy, Segher's *Seventh cross* and Zara's *Against this rock* which show careful craftsmanship or the touch of genius, but only the touch for one would hardly say that any of 1943's novels were outstanding works of art.

SALES OF BEST SELLERS

Although there were fewer titles of best sellers in 1943 total sales of all books undoubtedly equalled if they did not surpass sales of 1942. *Publisher's Weekly* of Jan. 22, 1944, reports that the top 20 books of 1943 sold a far greater number of copies than the 20 best sellers of 1942. Outstanding were the sales of Douglas' *The robe* which totaled 535,000 copies and Carlson's *Under cover* for which the latest advertising figures (Jan. 30, 1944) show a total of 643,000 copies in print. These figures were achieved without benefit of book club assistance. The Book of the Month choice for September, 1943, Marquand's *So little time*, had 656,000 copies in print as of Jan. 9, 1944; Betty Smith's *A tree grows in Brooklyn*, a Literary Guild selection, has 400,000 copies in print. But the runaway best seller of 1943 was Wendell Willkie's account of his world tour and program for a new era, *One world*. Simon and Schuster report that total sales of this title were 1,219,621 copies. One of their newest titles, *Target: Germany*, began with a printing of 190,000.

How many copies must a book sell before it achieves the distinction of being listed by the *New York Herald-Tribune*? There is no definite sales figure set, of course, merely a report by three of the book stores sufficing to give a book mention. Obviously at certain seasons when sales are high, the sale of any one title must be high before it will be recorded; at other times when sales are weak, titles

in lesser demand will be mentioned. Thus, in spring of 1943 was published a title with total sales of less than 10,000 yet this title was on the *Books* list for five weeks; a title appearing in the fall, on the list for eighteen weeks, totaled 40,000 copies; during the slack summer months one title was listed for fourteen weeks yet had a total sale of only 15,000.

Are the best sellers always the best sellers? In other words are there books which sold more copies than some of the titles on the fiction and non-fiction list as given in the Appendix. Undoubtedly there are many. First of all, the best-selling lists are limited to new titles; they exclude reprints such as those in the *Pocket Books* series, *Modern Library*, *Everyman's Library*, etc. Secondly, textbook sales are obviously not recorded as the majority of such sales are made directly by the publishers. Thirdly, juveniles are usually omitted although an occasional borderline title such as St. Exupéry's *Little prince* may creep in. Even with these large and broad classes omitted quite a few titles escape reporting, for example, Crown Publishers report a total sale of 47,400 for Lawrence Lariar's *Best cartoons of the year, 1943*, a figure exceeding many of last year's non-fiction books.

CATHOLIC BEST SELLERS

Several publishers of Catholic titles were asked for figures on their outstanding books but no reply was received. Sheed and Ward in advertising releases mention a figure of approximately 25,000 for Gilbert Keith Chesterton, a mark that was probably tied by sales of Walsh's *St. Teresa of Avila*. The 1942 title, *The family that overtook Christ* (published almost simultaneously with *The robe*) is unofficially said to have reached a total

of 40,000. Lewis' *Screwtape letters* probably sold between 10,000 and 15,000, giving it a place near the bottom of the secular lists. There may be six or eight other titles that have been mentioned on the *America* list during 1943 that have had a distribution of approximately 10,000 copies.

The conclusion would be that the *Herald-Tribune* weekly list is fairly representative of secular book sales, excluding text and reference book, juveniles and reprints. Occasional titles, particularly those issued by publishers who conduct large direct-mail campaigns, may become best sellers and not appear on the list. Reports from bookstores are the only basis for inclusion; therefore, any factor that excludes the bookstore is one that works against having the title mentioned. Most striking examples are book club selections, e.g., Stuart's *Taps for Private Tussie*, the December Book of the Month Club selection, published on November 24, had total sales of 400,000 yet had not appeared high on the list even at the end of January, 1944. Because the stores reporting are entirely secular stores whose stock of Catholic titles is never large, it is a corollary that the titles reported will be exclusively secular. Again there is an occasional exception such as Zara's *Against this rock* or Daly's *Seventeenth summer* (a 1942 best seller on the list for a few weeks).

A BOOK OF THE MONTH OR EVERY WEEK?

The book club phenomenon showed no signs of abatement; rather their claims of membership reached new heights; in a recent advertisement the Book of the Month Club announced it is reaching 500,000 families. The Literary Guild probably has a membership well over

100,000. As in the previous year, the 1943 choices of the book clubs were almost invariably best sellers in the book stores. However, some of the biggest sellers of 1943, *Under cover* and *The robe* achieved the heights on their own power.

The Book of the Month is gradually discovering that more than one important book is published each month; in 1943 it chose nineteen books during the twelve months. Of these, as the list below shows, seventeen were considered suitable for general adult reading and two recommended for the mature adult. One-third, or six, of its choices were rated as "family books". Of the twelve Literary Guild selections, eight are suitable for adults, and four considered suitable only for mature adults or not recommended.

The Literary Guild favored fiction and avoided the war; the Book of the Month Club on the other hand chose eleven non-fiction titles and of its nineteen books nine dealt directly or indirectly with World War II.

LITERARY GUILD SELECTIONS—1943

- January. Gilligan. *The gaunt woman*. Scribner. IIb
- February. Lothar. *Beneath another sun*. Doubleday. IIa (Note: This was also a Catholic Book Club selection)
- March. Cloete. *Congo song*. Houghton. IV
- April. Carpenter. *Experiment perilous*. Little. IIb
- May. Taylor. *Chicken every Sunday*. Whitelsey House. IV
- June. Colver. *Mr. Lincoln's wife*. Farrar. I
- July. Beals. *Dawn over the Amazon*. Duell. IIb
- August. Idell. *Centennial summer*. Holt. IIb
- September. Smith. *A tree grows in Brooklyn*. Harper. III
- October. Ostenso. *O river, remember?* Dodd. IIb
- November. Weston. *Indigo*. Scribner. III
- December. Woollcott. *Long, long, ago*. Viking. I

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

SELECTIONS—1943

- January. Mytinger. *Headhunting in the Solomon Islands*. Macmillan. I
 February. Tregaskis. *Guadalcanal diary*. Random House. IIb
 Angell. *Let the people know*. Viking. IIa
 March. Fleming. *Colonel Effingham's raid*. Duell. I
 Saroyan. *The human comedy*. Harcourt. I
 April. DeVoto. *The year of decision, 1846*. Little. I
 May. Aldanov. *The fifth seal*. Scribner. III
 June. Dinesen. *Winter's tales*. Random. III
 Saunders. *Combined operations*. Macmillan. IIa
 July. Lippmann. *U. S. foreign policy*. Little. IIa
 Benét. *Western star*. Farrar. IIb
 August. Lawson. *Thirty seconds over Tokyo*. Random. IIa
 Miller. *Origins of the American revolution*. Little. I
 September. Marquand. *So little time*. Little. IIb
 October. Shiber. *Paris underground*. Scribner. I
 St. George. *% Postmaster*. Crowell. IIb
 November. Ingersoll. *Battle is the pay-off*. Harcourt. IIb
 Hathaway. *The little locksmith*. Coward-McCann. IIb
 December. Stuart. *Taps for Private Tussie*. Dutton. IIb

SUBJECT ANALYSIS OF 1943's

BEST SELLERS

Fiction

In fiction the categories of the year's best sellers are much the same as of last year. The historical novels: Allen's *Forest and the fort*; Cannon's *Look to the mountain*; Fast's *Citizen Tom Paine*; etc., continued the trend of depicting America's past, often through scenes of strife that would parallel the present. The European scene was the subject of other stories; of particular note was the revival of interest in Tolstoy's *War and peace* brought out anew in a handsome reprint edition.

The interest in religious novels continued, if one can include such distortions of history as *The apostle* among religious novels. First announcements for 1944 indicate that the publishers are awakening to the demand that made *Song of Bernadette* a big seller; an early Book of the Month Club choice will be a story written about the times of St. Francis of Assisi.

Romance and adventure, espionage and mystery, found their place, generally far below the other types of stories but always present. Detective fiction often appears near the bottom of the *Herald* list; the average sale of publishers' mystery selections (Crime Club; Inner Sanctum) appears to be about 6,000 copies.

The psychological novel emphasizing personality traits, generally of one central character, is another of the best-selling types. For example, Seager's *Equinox* is a semi-psychoanalytical novel partially based on the Electra complex; *The Turnbells* by Taylor Caldwell is a story showing the corrosive effects of hate upon the human soul; Marquand's *So little time* and Flavin's *Journey in the dark* are good accounts of men without a purpose, groping blindly from day to day. The psychological novel is more rarely a pure type than the romance or detective type; generally it is a mixture although occasionally a book like Koestler's *Arrival and departure* shows that it can be done otherwise.

World War II entered into many of the novels. Lodwick's *Running to Paradise*, Lothar's *Beneath another sun*, Heym's *Hostages* and about a dozen other titles reflect war events. One might say that the war novels are not as significant as the corresponding titles in non-fiction.

NON-FICTION

On a relative basis many more worthwhile books appeared on the non-fiction section of the list than on that for fiction during 1943. Again the contradistinction to fiction is that books connected with the war far over-shadowed all other types of non-fiction. A large percentage of the correspondents, commentators and analysts embodied their views and experiences in book form. Most of these books can be placed within two general classes. First, those which deal directly with the actual experiences of men in some branch of the service in a particular theater of war, usually written by actual combatants or correspondents in service. These books reflect the attitudes of the men as well as retailing experiences. Among such may be mentioned Scott's *God is my co-pilot*, Belden, *Retreat with Stilwell*, Brown, *Suez to Singapore*, Ingersoll, *The battle is the pay-off*, Pyle, *Here is your war*, Wheeler, *The Pacific is my beat*, White, *They were expendable* and *Queens die proudly*. Secondly, there were the books related less directly to actual warfare, written by analysts, experts and political figures. These books dealt not with actual battle and the men in battle but with causes of the war, military phenomena and with plans for the coming settlement. They also covered conditions in our country and abroad which were in many ways related to the war. Such titles would include Lippmann's *U. S. foreign policy*, Carlson's *Under cover*, Willkie's *One world*, Hynd's *Passport to treason* and *Betrayal from the East*, Borkin's *Germany's master plan*, and Adamic's *My native land*.

Outside of the war books there was a goodly selection of titles in other subjects. Biography and autobiography had their representatives in such titles as the lives

of George Washington Carver and Willard Gibbs, the stories of the *Yankee lawyer* (is it Train or Tutt?) and the *Connecticut Yankee*, the undoubtful Wilbur Cross of Yale. To history Bernard DeVoto, Peattie and others contributed worthy titles; education, politics, economics and sociology were not so popular. The "How to" group received two additions through Fink's *Release from nervous tension* and Fosdick's *On being a real person*. Americans did not neglect their humor. Darrow's *You're sitting on my eyelashes* won its place of doubtful merit; late in the year a stronger contender for higher honors was Craven's *Cartoon cavalcade*. The old back to the land movement, popularized some years ago through *R. F. D.*, was again evident in Graham's *Ouy way down East* and Damon's *Sense of humus*.

CONCLUSIONS

That is the way 1943's best-selling books looked to us. The non-fiction war titles outranked in excellence the majority of the fiction titles even though most of the latter outsold the correspondents' and analysts' works. Morally the whole list (fiction and non-fiction) seems a little better simply because non-fiction was in the ascendancy. Actually the percentage of novels suitable for family reading dropped to 20% of the total list of fiction as against 25% for the preceding year. A tendency to classify as religious novels such works as *The apostle* and *The ten commandments* simply reflects the heterodoxy of American thought; they are hardly more religious than would be one with a title like *Angel in the taproom*; in fact, a book of the latter title would probably do less to undermine revelation and man's relationship to God.

For those who wish to have the "raw" material on which these observations are

based we present the list of 1943's best sellers; for the majority of these, full reviews supporting the assigned moral classifications will be found in the semi-monthly issues of *Best Sellers*.

APPENDIX

Arabic numbers in parentheses refer to numbered notes below. Roman numerals (e.g., IIa) refer to headings of classes mentioned under MORAL SUMMARY, page 137.

1. Publisher regards figures as confidential and does not release.

2. No response to questionnaire.

3. Number of copies printed.

4. Not reviewed in *Best Sellers*; classification based on reviews in *America*, *Catholic World*, *Commonweal* and *The Sign*.

Titles of Fiction on New York Herald-Tribune Books List in 1943

- Aldanov. *The fifth seal*. Scribner. (1) IIa
 Aldrich. *The lieutenant's lady*. Appleton. (1) IIb
 Allen. *The forest and the fort*. Farrar. (2) IIb
 Asch. *The apostle*. Putnam. (2) IV
 Baker. *Trio*. Houghton. (2) IV
 Baum. *The weeping wood*. Doubleday. (2) IV
 Beals. *Dawn over the Amazon*. Duell. (2) III
 Benefield. *Eddie and the Archangel Mike*. Reynal. (2) IIb
 Bontome. *Survival*. Little. (2) III
 Bromfield. *Mrs. Parkington*. Harper. (1) III
 Browne. *See what I mean?* Random. (2) IIb
 Buck. *The promise*. Day. (2) IIb
 Caldwell. *The arm and the darkness*. Scribner. (1) IV
 Caldwell. *The Turnbells*. Scribner. (1) III
 Cannon. *Look to the mountain*. Holt. (2) I
 Carpenter. *Experiment perilous*. Little. (2) IIb
 Carroll. *Dunnybrook*. Macmillan. (3-40,000) I
 Chase. *In bed we cry*. Doubleday. (2) (103,000—*Publishers' Weekly*, Jan. 22, 1944 IV
 Chevalier. *Drivin' woman*. Macmillan. (3-95,000) IIb
 Cloete. *Congo song*. Houghton. (2) IV
 Colver. *Mr. Lincoln's wife*. Farrar. (2) I
 Coryn. *Good-bye my son*. Appleton. (1) III
 Davenport. *The valley of decision*. Scribner. (1) (200,000 exclusive of book club sales) IV
 Delafield. *Late and soon*. Harper. (1; 4) III
 Dinesen. *Winter's tales*. Random. (2) III
 Dos Passos. *Number one*. Houghton. III
 Douglas. *The robe*. Houghton. (535,000) (Total in print including book club copies, 850,000—*P.W.*, Dec. 11, 1943.) IIb
 DuMaurier. *Hungry Hill*. Doubleday. (2) III
 Eaton. *The sea is so wide*. Harper. (1) IIb
 Fast. *Citizen Tom Paine*. Duell. (2) IIb
 Flavin. *Journey in the dark*. Harper. (1) IIb
 Fleming. *Colonel Effingham's raid*. Duell. (2) I
 Fletcher. *Men of Albemarle*. Bobbs. (1) IIb
 Forbes. *Mama's bank account*. Harcourt. (1) I
 Forester. *The ship*. Little. (2) I
 Freeman. *Never call retreat*. Farrar. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Fuller. *The shining trail*. Duell. (2) I
 Gilligan. *The gaunt woman*. Scribner. (1) IIb
 Hackett. *The senator's last night*. Doubleday. (2) IV
 Hale. *The prodigal women*. Scribner. (1) IV
 Herbert. *Capricornia*. Appleton. (1) IIb
 Heyer. *Penhallow*. Doubleday. (2) IIb
 Heym. *Hostages*. Putnam. (2) IV
 Hobart. *The cup and the sword*. Bobbs. (1) I
 Hobson. *The trespassers*. Simon. (22,418) III
 Howe. *The whole heart*. Simon. (Between 14,000 and 15,000) IIa
 Hull. *A circle in the water*. Coward. (2) IIb
 Iams. *Prophet by experience*. Morrow. (1) (Not reviewed)
 Idell. *Centennial summer*. Holt. (2) IIb
 Janeway. *The Walsh girls*. Doubleday. (2) (34,000 in print—*P.W.*, Dec. 25, 1943) IIb
 Kantor. *Happy land*. Coward. (2) IIa
 Keyes. *Also the hills*. Messner. (190,000, including People's Book Club) IIb
 Keyes. *Crescent carnival*. Messner. (80,000 IIa
 Lewis. *Gideon Planish*. Random. (2) IIb
 Lincoln. *Bradshaws of Harniss*. Appleton. (1) I
 Llewellyn. *None but the lonely heart*. Macmillan. (3-100,000) III
 Lothar. *Beneath another sun*. Doubleday. (2) IIa
 Macardle. *The uninvited*. Doubleday. (2) IIa
 McHugh. *I am thinking of my darling*. Simon. (22,930) IV
 Mangione. *Mount Allegro*. Houghton. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Marquand. *So little time*. Little. (2) (656,000 copies in print including Book of the Month, Jan. 9, 1944 ad) IIb
 Marsh. *Colour scheme*. Little. (2) I
 Mason. *Rivers of glory*. Lippincott. (1) III
 Morley. *Thorofare*. Harcourt. (1) IIa
 Nathan. *But gently day*. Knopf. (20,342) I
 O'Hara. *Thunderhead*. Lippincott. (1) I
 Priestley. *Black-out in Gretley*. Harper. (1) IIa
 Priestley. *Daylight on Saturday*. Harper. (1) IIa
 Prokosch. *The conspirators*. Harper. (1) IV

- Rand. *The fountainhead*. Bobbs. (1) III
 Saint Exupéry. *The little prince*. Reynal. (2) I
 Saroyan. *The human comedy*. Harcourt. (1) I
 Seager. *Equinox*. Simon. (28,278) IV
 Seghers. *The seventh cross*. Little. (2) IIb
 Selby. *Starbuck*. Farrar. (2) IV
 Seeley. *Eleven came back*. Doubleday. (2) IIb
 Sinclair. *Wide is the gate*. Viking. (2) IV
 Smith. *A tree grows in Brooklyn*. Harper. (400,000) III
 Standish. *The three bamboos*. Macmillan. (3—25,000) IIa
 Steen. *The sun in my undoing*. Viking. (2) III
 Stegner. *The big rock candy mountain*. Duell. (2) IV
 Sublette and Kroll. *Perilous journey*. Bobbs. (1; 4) IV
 Tarkington. *Kate Fennigate*. Doubleday. (2) I
 Tolstoy. *War and peace*. Simon. (40,662) IIa
 Turnbull. *The day must dawn*. Macmillan. (3—40,000) I
 Vance (pseud. of G. Z. Stone). *Reprisal*. Little. (2) I
 Walpole. *Katherine Christian*. Doubleday. (2) IIb
 Werfel. *The song of Bernadette*. Viking. (2) I
 Weston. *Indigo*. Scribner. (1) III
 Williams. *The strange woman*. Houghton. (2) IIb
 Williams. *Time of peace*. Houghton. (2) IIa
 Zara. *Against this rock*. Creative Age. (11,810, estimated sales) IIb
- Titles of Non-Fiction on New York Herald-Tribune Books List in 1943**
- Adamic. *My native land*. Harper. (1) III
 Agar. *A time for greatness*. Little. (2) I
 Ageton. *Naval officer's guide*. Whittlesey. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Alcott. *My war with Japan*. Holt. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Andrews. *Under a lucky star*. Viking. (2) IIa
 Angell. *Let the people know*. Viking. (2) I
 Beard. *The republic*. Viking. (2) IIa
 Belden. *Retreat with Stilwell*. Knopf. (14,129) IIa
 Benchley. *Benchley beside himself*. Harper. (1) I
 Benét. *Western star*. Farrar. (2) IIb
 Beveridge. *Social insurance and allied services*. Macmillan. (3—50,000) I
 Borkin. *Germany's master plan*. Duell. (2; 4) IIa
 Brown. *Suez to Singapore*. Random. (2) IIa
 Brown. *To all hands*. Whittlesey. (2) (55,000 copies in print—P.W., Dec. 25, 1943) IIb
 Burnett. *This is my best*. Dial. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Carlson. *Under cover*. Dutton. (2—latest advertising figures, 643,000) III
 Casey. *Torpedo junction*. Bobbs. (1) (Not reviewed)
 Cassidy. *Moscow dateline*. Houghton. (2) IIa
 Chase. *Past imperfect*. Doubleday. (2) III
 Churchill. *The end of the beginning*. Little. (2) IIa
 Cross. *Connecticut Yankee*. Yale. (2) IIa
 Curie. *Journey among warriors*. Doubleday. (2) I
 Damon. *A sense of humor*. Simon. (28,507) IIb
 Darrow. *You're sitting on my eyelashes*. Random. (2) IIb
 DeVoto. *The year of decision: 1846*. Little. (2) I
 Divine. *Firedrake*. Dutton (2; 4) IIa
 Fink. *Release from nervous tension*. Simon. (45,928) (Not reviewed)
 Forbes. *Paul Revere and the world he lived in*. Houghton. (2) I
 Fosdick. *On being a real person*. Harper. (1) IIa
 Freeman. *Lee's lieutenants*. 2v. Scribner. (1) I
 Goodman. *Fireside book of dog stories*. Simon. (31,463) (Not reviewed)
 Graham. *Our way down East*. Macmillan. (3—18,000) IIb
 Graves. *Fighting South*. Putnam. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Grew. *Report from Tokyo*. Simon. (116,590) IIa
 Hamilton. *Appeasement's child*. Knopf. (10,645) (4) III
 Handleman. *Bridge to victory*. Random. (2) IIb
 Hargrove. *See here, Private Hargrove*. Holt. (2) I
 Hathaway. *The little locksmith*. Coward-McCann. (2) III
 Haugland. *Letter from New Guinea*. Farrar. (2) IIb
 Hélon. *They shall not have me*. Dutton. (2; 4) IIa
 Hemingway. *Men at war*. Crown. (32,348) (Not reviewed)
 Hersey. *Into the valley*. Knopf. (25,748) IIa
 Hill. *Exchange ship*. Farrar. (2) (Not reviewed)
 Hilton. *The story of Dr. Wassell*. Little. (2) I

- Hindus. *Mother Russia*. Doubleday. (2) III
- Holt. *George Washington Carver*. Doubleday. (2) I
- Hooper. *Mathematics refresher*. Holt. (2) (Not reviewed)
- Huxley. *Art of seeing*. Harper. (1; 4) IIa
- Hynd. *Betrayal from the East*. McBride. (2) IIa
- Hynd. *Passport to treason*. McBride. (2) I
- Ingersoll. *The battle is the pay-off*. Harcourt. (1) IIb
- Johnson. *American heroes and hero worship*. Harper. (1) IIa
- Johnston. *Queen of the flat tops*. Dutton. (2) I
- Kimbrough. *We followed our hearts to Hollywood*. Dodd. (2) I
- Kinert. *America's fighting planes in action*. Macmillan. (3—60,000) (Not reviewed)
- Kraus. *Young Lady Randolph*. Putnam. 2; 4) IIa
- Laski. *Reflections on the revolution of our time*. Viking. (2) IIa
- Lawson. *Thirty seconds over Tokyo*. Random. (2) IIa
- Lee. *They call it Pacific*. Viking. (2) I
- Lesueur. *12 months that changed the world*. Knopf. (14,139) IIa
- Lin Yutang. *Between tears and laughter*. Day. (2) IIa
- Lin Yutang. *The wisdom of China and India*. Random. (2) III
- Lippmann. *U. S. foreign policy*. (2) IIa
- Meade. *Judah P. Benjamin*. Oxford. (1) (Not reviewed)
- Mencken. *Heathen days*. Knopf. (9,072) IIa
- Michie. *Air offensive over Germany*. Holt. (2) IIa
- Mitchell. *McSorley's wonderful saloon*. Duell. (2) (Not reviewed)
- Moats. *Blind date with Mars*. Doubleday. (2) IIa
- Mytinger. *Headhunting in the Solomon Islands*. Macmillan. (2) IIa
- Nash. *Good intentions*. Little. (2) I
- Nathan. *Journal for Josephine*. Knopf. (11,231) I
- New Yorker war album. Random. (2) (Not reviewed)
- Oechsner. *This is the enemy*. Little. (2; 4) IIa
- Officer's guide. Military Service. (2) (Not reviewed)
- Ottley. *New world a-coming*. Houghton. (2) IIa
- Partridge. *Excuse my dust*. Whittlesey. (2) IIb
- Pearson. *G. B. S.: a full length portrait*. Harper. (1; 4) IIa
- Peattie. *Journey into America*. Houghton. (2) I
- Pierson. *Roughly speaking*. Simon. (40,449) III
- Poole. *Giants gone*. Whittlesey. (2) (Not reviewed)
- Pyle. *Here is your war*. Holt. (2) (143,000—P.W., Jan. 22, 1944) I
- Queeny. *The spirit of enterprise*. Scribner. (1) IIa
- Reynolds. *Dress rehearsal*. Random. (2) IIa
- Rich. *We took to the woods*. Lippincott. (1) IIb
- Rickenbacker. *Seven came through*. Doubleday. (2) I
- Rombauer. *The joy of cooking*. Bobbs. (1) (Not reviewed)
- Romulo. *I saw the fall of the Philippines*. Doubleday. (2) I
- Rukeyser. *Willard Gibbs*. Doubleday. (2; 4) IIa
- St. George. *% Postmaster*. Crowell. (79,000—exclusive of Book of the Month) IIb
- Sandburg. *Storm over the land*. Harcourt. (1; 4) I
- Saunders. *Combined operations*. Macmillan. (3—60,000) IIa
- Scott. *God is my co-pilot*. Scribner. (1) IIb
- Seagrave. *Burma surgeon*. Norton. (102,000) IIa
- Shapley. *Treasury of science*. Harper. (1) IIa
- Sheean. *Between the thunder and the sun*. Random. (2) III
- Shiber. *Paris underground*. Scribner. (1) I
- Simonds. *Henry Ford*. Bobbs. (1; 4) I
- Skinner. *Our hearts were young and gay*. Dodd. (2) I
- Smith, H. A. *Life in a putty knife factory*. Doubleday. (2) IV
- Smith, H. K. *Last train from Berlin*. Knopf. (67,131) IIa
- Spalding. *Love at first flight*. Houghton. (60,000 in print—P.W., Jan. 23, 1944) IIb
- Spence. *Get thee behind me*. Whittlesey. (2) I
- Stone. *They also ran*. Doubleday. (2) I
- Taylor, H. *Men in motion*. Doubleday. (2) IIa
- Taylor, R. *Chicken every Sunday*. Whittlesey. (2) IV
- Thurber. *My world—and welcome to it*. Harcourt. (1; 4) I
- Tolischus. *Tokyo record*. Reynal. (2) IIa
- Train. *Yankee lawyer*. Scribner. (1) (About 50,000 printed—P.W., Jan. 1, 1944) I
- Tregaskis. *Guadalcanal diary*. Random. (2) IIa
- Van Loon. *Van Loon's lives*. Simon. (70,886) IV

(Concluded on page 157)

Detroit's Catholic Library

By RUTH M. GERBIG, President,

Van Antwerp Catholic Library, Detroit, Michigan

ORIGIN

From an historic standpoint any other day but April first should have been chosen by the Detroit Sodality Union to launch what seemed to be at the time a rather impossible venture. However, it was on April Fool's Day in 1934 that Monsignor John M. Doyle turned the key which opened the rather "out of the way" offices in the Chancery Building. Since he was at the time Chancellor of the diocese and manager of the Chancery Building he warned us to keep before us this condition—"these four rooms were merely being loaned to us, and if it would become necessary for some other project to move in, we would have to share the quarters or just move out". After all, he felt that an idea born on a return trip from a Sodality Summer School of Catholic Action might be short lived. In any event it certainly was unpredictable.

Grateful for the accommodation and happy that this much had been accomplished, we felt the major worries were lifted. Now, all that was needed was an interested but active group of Sodalists willing to promote the cause, and since the cause was the founding of a Catholic Library certainly books were most necessary.

PROMOTION

In a very few weeks the newly founded Van Antwerp Library was allotted a column in the *Michigan Catholic*, the

Diocesan Weekly, and the plea for "books and more books" or funds with which to purchase them, was answered—the shelves were soon stocked with books donated by priests and lay people with the result that very shortly the few borrowed books grew to several hundred.

PRESS EXHIBITS

Although still somewhat unsteady on its feet, but already well known to thousands of people in Detroit, the Library undertook during the next two years, two city-wide Catholic press exhibits. Both were very successful, the second exhibit attracting more than fifteen thousand visitors. Rev. Francis P. Le Buffe, S.J., at the time associate editor of *America*, described this exhibit as "the most elaborate of its kind ever held in the United States". Since the Press Exhibit ran for a week in a building directly opposite to the Chancery in the heart of downtown Detroit, and since it was featuring several well known national speakers, who would without a doubt, draw a steady afternoon and evening crowd, the library "migrated" temporarily to this spot. All necessary records, materials, and books which were required for operation, were moved to the Press Exhibit, with the hope that Detroit's Catholic Library might become better known at least to the patrons of the exhibit. The results were most gratifying—we were now "on the map" as the saying goes. The "struggle for existence" still continued during the months to

follow, but our hopes were steadily strengthened.

PIONEER DAYS

Miss Lillian Howard, who was then Vice-President of the Detroit Sodality Union, now became the full time librarian, and soon several new features of interest were added, all of which would help sustain operation. A stock of timely pamphlets and a complete line of Sodality materials from the *Queen's Work* in St. Louis brought a marked increase of patrons. At this time, a book rental fee of two cents a day, as well as a membership fee of twenty-five cents a year, added to the revenue. Since we operated "rent free", each day we closed with the feeling that we were again able to "make ends meet".

EXPANSION

Then a bright spot loomed on the horizon. By this time there seemed to be a goodly number of satisfied customers willing to spend themselves for the interest of the library; they realized the quarters must be expanded. We had outgrown ourselves—secular newspaper publicity, radio talks, and "mail-bag" patrons, all had helped to build the foundation. Detroit had proved to itself that it not only wanted but actually needed a larger Catholic Circulating Library. Perhaps, too, its namesake, the beloved and late Monsignor Francis J. Van Antwerp, D.D., who, during his priestly years had done so much to strengthen Catholic life, was now behind this, his memorial, in spirit. At any rate, many willing and unselfish souls in both Catholic and civic circles undertook the planning of a city-wide card party at the Naval Armory. Among the patrons were Senator and Mrs. James Couzens, who, in their kindness and generosity mailed a substantial check for the party fund. After all expenses had been

met, the card party netted nearly three thousand dollars.

PRESENT LOCATION

Today, nine years later, the picture has changed considerably. Another door in the same building has been unlocked—the library is now operating in spacious quarters on the second floor. The small "pillar-like" glass cases on either side of the street floor entrance remind the passer-by that the Catholic Library is on the second floor—a few steps into the arcade, he observes the location repeated on the building directory. An elevator takes him to the Van Antwerp Library.

PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT

Here, open shelves, housing over five thousand books, project horizontally several feet into the room to invite the browser; pull-up chairs grouped around the tables urge him to linger, and the Venetian-shaded windows forming the front of the room—all offer a quiet restful atmosphere for pleasurable and profitable reading. Mounted on panels at the entrance to each book section are more than a dozen autographed photos of such distinguished Catholic writers as Monsignor Sheen, Reverend James J. Daly, S.J., Helen C. White, and Reverend Daniel A. Lord, S.J. It is our hope to build a representative Living Author Section. At present two full-time librarians and one stock girl are kept busy with the variety of tasks necessary for the operation of a busy library.

SECTIONS

The Van Antwerp Library does enjoy a boast or two, one being its perpetual miniature Magazine Exhibit. Here you may find a timely copy of almost any current Catholic magazine—yes, even a Braille edition of the *Catholic Digest* is available.

Directly opposite this section and far to the front so that little or no interference with the usual traffic may be met, is the Juvenile Section—which wins the consistent patronage of young readers.

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Many groups throughout the city attend the Children's Story Hour conducted each Saturday afternoon. Marygrove College students have been holding these programs for two years, and in order to distribute the crowd, a special group is invited—usually two schools each Saturday, averaging about a hundred youngsters between the ages of eight and twelve. Since these are potential adult patrons, each child is given a card addressed to his parents indicating that we were pleased to have him present for the story hour and with their permission we should like to enter him as a member of the library, thereby offering him the privilege of withdrawing books for the children's rental fee of one cent a day.

PAMPHLET DEPARTMENT

Before approaching the Children's Section almost everyone pauses at the pamphlet displays where three large page-like panels of pamphlets are found. These are constructed in bookbinding fashion and catalog some 3500 separate titles, so that our rack-tender patrons may not buy blindly, but may leisurely study the format and carefully scan the contents—they may investigate before investing. Because of a perpetual stock of over 100,000 pamphlets, orders may be "filled while you wait".

The pamphlet room has expanded its stock space in spiral fashion within its four walls. All eighty-six presses are alphabetically arranged and titles are alphabetized within each press—separate title cards indicating both lot and single

copy prices. The slogan *If It's a Pamphlet You Want, We Have It*, has brought a surprising support to the library. Not only are pamphlets sold to parish rack tenders but valuable guidance in a useful set up and choice of titles is given. Since prices are quoted at cost, more than 400 parishes, sodalities, study clubs, and schools, as well as a great number of individuals, are supplied, not to mention the orders which come in from over thirty states. Gay covers, with attractive titles covering almost every subject you could imagine warrant a steady turnover. Not only are pamphlets sought after by our adult generation which "reads as it runs" but a rather new field is that of the children's booklets. Priced within the range of their purse strings we find brief lives of the saints, First Communion prayers, and a dozen or more by Father Lord. Frequently some of the most popular children's pamphlets are displayed on the ledge of the Charging Desk. These are easily seen and frequently purchased by our patrons as they await the tailoring of the rental books. The appropriate book jackets of several sizes have been donated for nine years by a Detroit jeweler. A steady rise in pamphlet sales during the war has been felt, one reason being the fact that thousands of pamphlets are sent each month by the Libraries and Literature Committee of the National Council of Catholic Women to our armed forces at camps and elsewhere.

EXTRA SERVICES

Aside from being a service station for church rack tenders and book patrons, the library acts as a ticket distributor for the Christian Culture Series sponsored by Assumption College in Canada, as an agent for *The Michigan Catholic* subscriptions and payments, as well as a

membership headquarters for the Catholic Book Clubs. Subscription for Catholic and secular magazines may be entered here. The free distribution of Best Seller lists each month has had an influencing effect on a number of patrons, who have purchased an increasingly large number of books. Too, the public libraries enjoy our services which ultimately are of benefit to their Catholic patrons. The Van Antwerp Library frequently receives a phone call asking why one book by an author is condemned and another of his works is approved. Hundreds of Catholic books are shelved in the public libraries in Detroit because of requests from churches, schools, and organizations whose members have first seen the titles listed on the Best Seller list which is sent gratis to them each month. Non-Catholic clergymen, as well as a number of non-Catholic laymen take books out regularly. The daily secular papers occasionally send over their secretaries to find an answer to their particular problem. Our latest and most remote request has just come from South Africa asking for information necessary to open a Catholic library there. We could use and would gladly welcome a Correspondence Librarian, who would find herself very busy offering assistance to the many persons seeking information on operating a Catholic Library. Several years ago the President of the Van Antwerp Library was asked to address the group in Grand Rapids who were planning the Baraga Rental Library. Libraries in many other states have sent visitors or have written to us requesting detailed procedure for opening a library.

BUSIEST HOURS

The noon hour seems to be the busiest time of the day when office workers, attorneys, salespeople and others dash in

to get a book while on their lunch hour. And it is sometimes about this hour that little Junior is "parked" while his mother finishes her shopping. Out of town patrons begin to arrive about noon, since the bus, of necessity, is generally used. The telegraph and telephone orders for books and pamphlets each day reflect the gas shortage problem, and a noted increase in requests for books to be mailed, keeps the librarians very much busier.

At present, free membership cards are issued to patrons—a rental charge of three cents a day for adults and one cent a day for juvenile books helps offset the book wear.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK

During National Catholic Book Week, November 7th to 13th, *The Michigan Catholic Weekly* carried an entire page captioned "Detroit's Catholic Library Participates in Catholic Book Week".

"It is your high mission as a Catholic Library," wrote Archbishop Mooney to the Van Antwerp Library, "to make better known the splendid Catholic contribution to world thought that grows from day to day through the work of contemporary Catholic scholars." It is he who has been the inspiration back of all our development. That the library is rapidly becoming a center of Catholic influence in many fields and a most effective apostolate for good was more fully realized by the library board when the C.Y.O. which has just recently embarked on a very extensive program, invited the Van Antwerp Library to open an east side branch at the C.Y.O. Activities Building. With priorities pending, the library, which is a now non-profit corporation, seems to see a not "too remote" ray of hope that all present obstacles will be short lived, since the eyes and mind of our country

(Concluded on page 156)

Teaching Biography, Particularly the Lives of the Saints

By SISTER MARY MARK, Librarian,
The Saint Mary College, Xavier, Kansas

The teaching of biography satisfies some of the innate tendencies of the child, among them the tendency to hero worship and the social tendency. The aim of the Catholic teacher in presenting biography should be first, to learn that the heroes were lovable people and very much like the worth-while people we know today; second, to realize that they were not born heroes, but rather attained heroism by their own efforts; third, to understand that in order to be a great hero one need not do extraordinary things, but simply do the ordinary things well.

Using the privilege of curiosity accorded women, in September I asked my sixth grade class of boys and girls if they had read the life story of any great hero or heroine. Many hands were raised high, for all wished to show the new teacher how well they knew and liked such reading.

I questioned further and learned that they had read the lives of great statesmen, explorers, and authors, inventors, musicians, and artists; but very few had read the stories of God's heroes and heroines.

This is a sad fact; for, as Catholic teachers, should we not give our boys and girls the many beautiful biographies of God's heroes, as well as those mentioned above? These heroes are really lovable people, just as are the heroes of today.

Who could fear the singing "Troubadour", St. Francis of Assisi? The poor little rich girl of Lourdes? The ever-helpful Little Flower? "God's Jester", Father Pro, and many, many others that thrill the small reader and make him live again in times and places long ago?

Hero worship place a vital part in the lives of our boys and girls of the elementary school; therefore, we should be most careful to give them shining examples for their ideals.

Care should be taken to show the children that heroes are not born heroes, but, rather, that they gained their greatness by hard work and upright living. Let each one see that he can be a hero, too, just by doing the little everyday things well. Show each child that it is in doing the little things well that he will really be a part of the Mystical Body of Christ. By reading and knowing the saints, he is establishing friendships that will be of great benefit when he has grown to manhood. Teach the children to call on these friends as they do on earthly friends. In poetry and prose we can know them, talk with them, and love them. They in turn will do their part in making this friendship lasting. Thus, the Mystical Body will become priceless because it will be full of meaning to our children.

Biographies for children should be modern and attractive, and there are many such available today. One of the

trail blazers of our own times, in teaching the lives of saints to children, is Aloysius Croft of Milwaukee. After working with boys in the youth movement of that city he discovered, to his own satisfaction, what excellent factors are found in the lives of the saints that can be used for the development of character. With this in mind, he wrote a group of biographies published by Bruce under the title, *Twenty-one Saints*. Each chapter tells, in the language of youth, of a man or boy saint, emphasizing the heroic qualities of each. In these, the young reader can discover for himself the philosophy that led each person to greatness.

Girls too are seeking for models who are really human, yet virtuous and lovable. In Father Husslein's *Heroines of Christ*, our girls will find high ideals, yet not too high for imitation. When first I heard of the book, I was impressed, not because of the characters alone, but because each chapter was written by a young man, a seminarian, about his favorite woman saint. If the characters portrayed in these stories helped those young men to better and higher living, would they not also be of great benefit to others? Let the young readers see that women and girls can gain just as much fame as men and boys, and let us give them God's heroines as their guides. Thus, more readily they realize they need not the gift of miracles or prophecy to become great—all they need do is live their everyday lives well, and they, too, will attain fame.

Often we hear the question "Should child saints be taught?" I do not think there is any harm done by just letting children know there are child saints, but, in common with other teachers, I do not think we should stress these lives. It is

not natural for children to wish for lingering illness, to go about saying pious sentences, or to wear expressions intended to impress those they meet that they are holy and different from others. On the other hand, we do not want children to give up the desire for holiness, because of the many unattractive associations which they might meet. I quote from Aloysius Croft who says, "Self-conscious piety is probably not piety at all, but spiritual pride. The American boy and girl disdains what he calls pious, but if the biographers can be believed, most of the child saints were definitely pious. For most children the Will of God is that they live a normal, happy childhood and grow into normal, happy adults, and that they gain heaven by following the duties of their state of life". Hence, the wise teacher will consider, very carefully, the books she places before her boys and girls, and give them what she feels will help them most to attain their goals.

Miss Mary Kiely, in her book *Traffic Lights*, devotes a chapter to the selection of biography for the school library, and another to the saints in literature. In the former she tells of two boys who met in a dugout in France during the first world war. They had been classmates, and, as a natural thing, began recalling events of their school days. They had had a teacher, a sister who came from the South to Buffalo, and in her classes she pictured General Lee so well that he became their hero. They had often laughed at this, but now, on thinking further, they wondered why the sister had not done the same for them with Christ or one of His saints. After reading that incident, I resolved that in the future I would strive harder than ever to give my boys and girls a greater knowledge and love for the heroes and heroines of God.

It might also be well to tell our young readers that with each new biography they will find that the reading becomes more and more fascinating. In the books we find real human beings who had faults just as we have today; nevertheless, they managed to overcome these failings and reached the goal that made them famous. In them, then, we find that discouragement can be overcome—and sainthood gained. Hence, if we follow their example and rise above our faults, we, too, as we travel along our roads of life, may attain our goal, the goal which should be the same as that of God's heroes—Heaven.

Biographies of Saints and Other Catholic Heroes for the Elementary School Library

FOR YOUNGER READERS

- Beebe, Catherine. *Little patron of gardeners, the good Saint Fiacre*. Ill. by Robb Beebe. Longmans, 1938. 38p. \$1.00.
- De Bethune, Adelaide. *Saint Teresa picture book*. Ill. by author. Sheed, 1937. 56p. \$1.00.
- Ghéon, Henri. *Saint Germaine of the Wolf Country*. Tr. by F. J. Sheed; woodcuts by Marigold Hunt. Sheed, 1936. 70p. \$0.50.
- Maritain, Raissa. *Saint Thomas Aquinas*. Tr. by Julie Kernan. Ill. by Gino Severini. Longmans, 1942. 127p. \$1.50.
- Schmidt-Pauli, Elizabeth V. *Little Saint Elizabeth*. Tr. by George N. Shuster. Macmillan, 1933. 57p. \$2.00.
- Schmidt-Pauli, Elizabeth V. *Little Saint Therese*. Tr. by George N. Shuster. Macmillan, 1933. 71p. \$2.00.
- Steedman, Amy. *In God's garden; stories of the saints for little children*. T. Nelson & Sons, 1935. 142p. \$2.00.
- Walker, Helen W. *Little Saint Agnes*. Longmans, 1938. 39p. \$1.00.
- Windeatt, Mary Fabyan. *Angel of the Andes; story of St. Rose of Lima*. St. Anthony Guild Press, 1943. 143p. \$1.50.
- Windeatt, Mary Fabyan. *Hero of the hills; story of St. Benedict*. Ill. by Donald Walpole, O.S.B. Sheed, 1943. 150p. \$1.75.
- Windeatt, Mary Fabyan. *Lad of Lima; story of Blessed Martin de Porres*. Sheed, 1942. 152p. \$1.75.
- Windeatt, Mary Fabyan. *Saints in the sky; story of St. Catherine of Siena*. Ill. by Helen Louise Baccard. Sheed, 1941. 72p. \$1.25.
- Windham, Joan. *Saints by request*. Ill. by Marigold Hunt. Sheed, 1937. 125p. \$1.50.
- Windham, Joan. *More six o'clock saints*. Ill. by Marigold Hunt. Sheed, 1937. 110p. \$1.75.
- Windham, Joan. *Six o'clock saints*. Ill. by Marigold Hunt. Sheed, 1934. 107p. \$1.25.
- #### FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS
- Barclay, Vera C. *Saints by firelight; stories for guides and rangers*. Sheed, 1931. 206p. \$1.00.
- Barker, Lillian. *Quints have a family*. (Dionnes). Sheed, 1941. 199p. \$1.75.
- Benz, Francis E. *Pasteur, knight of the laboratory*. Dodd, 1938. 232p. \$2.00.
- Birch, John Joseph. *The saint of the wilderness; St. Isaac Jogues*. Benziger, 1936. 236p. \$2.00.
- Buck, Alan M. *My Saint Patrick*. Lathrop, 1937. 243p. \$2.00.
- Coe, Douglas. *Marconi—pioneer of radio*. Messner, 1943. 272p. \$2.50.
- Considine, John Joseph. *When the sorghum was high*. (Gerard A. Donovan, M.M.). Longmans, 1940. 177p. \$2.00.
- Corcoran, Charles. *Blackrobe; fictionized biography of Pere Marquette*. Bruce, 1937. 377p. \$2.00.
- Criss, Mildred. *Isabella; young Queen of Spain*. Ill. by Marc Simont. Dodd, 1941. 219p. \$2.50.
- Criss, Mildred. *Mary Stuart, young Queen of Scots*. Ill. by Rose Chavanne. Dodd, 1939. 274p. \$2.50.
- Croft, Aloysius. *Twenty-one saints*. Bruce, 1937. 151p. \$1.50.
- Doorly, Eleanor. *The insect man; story of Jean Henri Fabre*. Woodcuts by Robert Gibbings. Appleton, 1937. 180p. \$1.50.
- Doorly, Eleanor. *Microbe man; Louis Pasteur*. Woodcuts by Robert Gibbings. Appleton, 1939. 161p. \$1.50.
- Eaton, Jeanette. *Jeanne d'Arc*. Ill. by Harve Stein. Harper, 1931. 102p. \$1.25.
- Farjeon, Eleanor. *Ten saints*. Ill. by Helen Sewell. Oxford, 1936. 124p. \$2.50.
- Fischer, Marie. *Grey dawns and red*. (Theophane Venard). Sheed, 1939. 102p. \$1.25.
- Ghéon, Henri. *Secret of St. Margaret Mary*. Tr. by F. J. Sheed. Sheed, 1937. 39p. \$1.00.
- Gibson, Katherine. *Goldsmith of Florence; a book of great craftsmen*. Decorations by Kalman Kubinyi. Macmillan, 1929. 209p. \$3.00.

(Concluded on page 157)

News and Notes

C.L.A. UNIT ACTIVITIES

OREGON-WASHINGTON

The fourth annual meeting of the Oregon-Washington Unit was held December twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth at the Portland Central Library, Portland, Oregon. Sister Rose Miriam, S.H.N., Librarian of Marylhurst College and Chairman of the O.W.R.U., presided at the opening and business sessions. The eighty persons who attended represented four of the six local units, namely, Portland, Mt. Angel, Seattle, Spokane, from thirteen cities and towns. Delegates from the Boise and Tacoma units were unable to attend owing to traveling difficulties.

The four principal speakers developed the general theme of the meeting, Principles for a Lasting Peace: Reverend Oscar F. Auvil, S.J., Librarian of the Jesuit novitiate, Sheridan, Oregon, spoke on preserving and strengthening at home in the United States the principles upon which peace must rest. A core group of readings on peace was recommended in the course of the lecture. Reverend Charles C. Miltner, C.S.C., President of the University of Portland, developed the natural moral law as the foundation for peace. Mr. John O'Hara, director of the Catholic book store in Portland, analyzed six current Catholic books on the subject of peace. Sister Miriam Theresa, S.H.N., head of the Marylhurst School of Social Work, reviewed in detail *Brothers under the skin*, by McWilliams, emphasizing the

need of peaceful living at home with our colored minorities.

Sectional meetings on elementary school library problems, high school libraries and college libraries included discussion of many topics, ranging from technical processes to propaganda analysis in reading.

His Excellency, Archbishop Howard of Portland, hailed the new Rosary College Library School extension, which is to open in June at the University of Portland, as a great opportunity for religious communities of the Northwest and Pacific Coast to develop professional personnel in their school libraries.

Reports of the six local units showed splendid progress in Catholic library work for the development of a Catholic reading public in the Northwest both in the schools and among the laity. Book Fairs in celebration of National Catholic Book Week were sponsored by the Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane Units.

At the business session a committee of five was appointed to draw up by-laws. The executive committee decided that the fifth annual meeting would be held in Spokane, December twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth, 1944.

Officers installed for the coming year are: *Chairman*, Mother Mary of Good Counsel, S.H.C.J., Holy Child Academy, Portland, Oregon; *Vice-Chairman*, Miss Helen Kust, De Sales Catholic Lending Library and Book Shop, Spokane, Wash-

inton; *Secretary - Treasurer*, Sister M. Catherine Eileen, S.H.N., Librarian, Holy Names College, Spokane, Washington.

SEATTLE BOOK FAIR

The Seattle Unit observed National Catholic Book Week by conducting a Book Fair, November eleventh to thirteenth. The Fair was held in the nurses' auditorium of Providence Hospital.

Books were displayed in booths attractively and appropriately arranged according to subjects. The fields of biography, history, sociology, philosophy, religion—with special emphasis on the liturgy—were represented. The exhibit of the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors attracted interested attention. About two hundred autographed pictures, which were secured directly from the authors, were displayed. Every State in the Union was represented, as well as many foreign places, such as London, Isle of Wight, Jamaica.

Lecturers included: Very Reverend John P. McCormick, S.S., President of St. Edward's Seminary, who spoke on "Books That Are Nearly Catholic"; Dom Albert Hammenstede, O.S.B., Abbey of Mt. Angel, Oregon, whose address was entitled, "Holy Mass of Our Day Appreciated in the Light of Christian Antiquity"; Mrs. Ernest B. Nelson, a native Peruvian, discussed "South America—Its Background and Hope for the Future"; Reverend Thomas Hanley, O.S.B., St. Martin's College, Lacy, on "Challenge of a Post-War World"; Very Reverend Francis A. O'Brien, O.M., Pastor of St. Benedict's Church, spoke at one session on "Relation of Literature to Juvenile Delinquency".

Members of Canisius Reading Club of Seattle College gave an informal review

of several books and a discussion of the books between the reviewers and the audience followed. Seniors of Holy Names Academy held a panel discussion in the form of a court of justice wherein the books in question were judged.

Miss Louise Finn was general chairman of the Fair. She was assisted by Sister Flavia Marie, H.N., and Mrs. T. R. Bresnahan, chairman of the Seattle Unit. Mrs. Mary E. Emerson was in charge of publicity.

* * *

Plans are in progress for the organization of a patients' library at the Providence Hospital, Seattle, Washington.

PHILOPATRIANS SPONSOR CATHOLIC LIBRARY

The January issue of *The Philopatrian*, quarterly publication of the Philopatrian Literary Institute of Philadelphia, announces plans for the formation of a Catholic Public Library, which will be opened under a non-profit corporation charter in the central part of Philadelphia.

The library will be operated by laymen and is to be patterned on the Institute's Malvern Retreat League. It will be open to everyone. It is expected that, as has been the case with other libraries of a similar nature, the new library will be "a bulwark of knowledge for Catholics and a fount of information for non-Catholics".

A campaign to raise \$25,000 will be inaugurated in the near future. A substantial part of this amount has already been subscribed. Further information may be secured from the Executive Secretary, Joseph N. Corcoran, 1304 Lincoln-Liberty Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

BIBLE WEEK AT SAINT MARY COLLEGE

Saint Mary College, Xavier, Kansas, observed Bible Week, beginning Bible Sunday, February 6, 1944. Saint Mary is the first institution in the United States of collegiate rank to plan an extensive program for such an occasion, including a series of seven addresses by Scripture scholars of international note, and library displays of specimens of Bible-making through the past nine centuries.

Bible Sunday was first celebrated May 18, 1941, because the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Edition of the New Testament, newly revised and translated by American scholars, was then about to be published, and the Catholic Biblical Association of America wished to prepare the people for the reception of the new version. Within that same year, however, Bible Sunday was set for Septuagesima Sunday, which varies with the date of Easter. The reason for selecting Septuagesima is that on that day the priests begin in their Breviary the reading of the opening book of the Bible, "Genesis". On subsequent days throughout the year, portions are read from each book of both the *Old* and *New Testaments*.

The Biblical collection in the Saint Mary College Library includes about 500 items recording the transmission of the Bible from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries. Forty manuscript pages on vellum, products of the monastic and collegiate *scriptoria* of the Benedictines, the Dominicans, the Franciscans, and the Carthusians of the middle ages, illustrate the arts of copying and of illumination in color and gold leaf. The earliest is from the Abbey of St. Oyen, France, 1150 A.D.,

a page from the *Book of Chronicles*. It has a center column of text with commentary on either side in smaller script.

Noted for the presses whence they came and for the workmanship which produced them, are the thirty-two printed specimen pages. Among those represented by a leaf are the "Poor Man's Bible", printed by Johannes Froben in 1495; a Koberger Latin Bible of 1497 with commentary by Nicholas de Lyra; a Hebrew Bible compiled and printed by the great scholar-printer, Robert Stephanus, 1544-46; the Cambridge Bible of 1763, the *magnum opus* of Baskerville, England's greatest type-founder and printer; and the Doves Bible, printed in Cambridge, 1903-05. There are five leaves from as many noted Greek, Hebrew, Spanish, French, and Latin Bibles; and five leaves from interlinear and polyglot Bibles.

Current interest focuses attention on a geography of the lands of the Bible by Samuel Bochart, who lived from 1599 to 1667. The copy is from the third edition of his complete works, 1692. The value of this *opus* arises from the numerous full-page and double-page maps, which recent geographers have found to be remarkably accurate for lineation, latitude, and longitude. On each map, names appear in Latin and in the language of the country, as likewise do the quotations, each of which Bochart gives in the original. The binding of this huge tome (16"x10"x3") is hand-tooled vellum on boards.

Among the nineteen languages represented in the Saint Mary College Library collection are complete Bibles, New

Testaments, and single Gospels. For the student there are commentaries, concordances, dictionaries, and harmonies. One of the most curious is a dictionary of the plants of the Bible having the text in German and an illustration on every page. The women of the Bible, the Bible in art, in music, in science and in literature, Biblical allusions in such writers as Poe and Shakespeare — each study is treated in additional volumes.

Valued for the illustrations are three titles for which the 19th century French artists, James J. Tissot, painted 396 compositions to illustrate the two volumes of the *Old Testament*, 462 illustrating two volumes of the *New Testament*, and 465 compositions from the four Gospels to portray the *Life of Christ* in four volumes. His water-color paintings are reproduced mainly in full-page plates, both in color and in black and white. These are the American editions with the text translated from French into English, large tomes printed on heavy glazed paper and beautifully bound, the *Old Testament* in green cloth, the others in three quarters leather.

Contemporary Biblical scholars have produced monumental works in *The Westminster version of the New Testament*, printed by Longmans, 1927-1938; the *Concordance* by Newton W. Thompson, from the house of Herder in 1942, the first complete concordance to the Catholic Bible in English; and the *Confraternity of Christian Doctrine* edition of the *New Testament*, printed in 1941.

The crown jewel in the Saint Mary Library collection is copy number sixty-two of the de luxe edition of the above mentioned *New Testament*. There are two other copies of the de luxe edition on the campus. St. Mary's Academy has copy

number ninety-nine. Copy one hundred is at the Mother House. Each of the three copies was displayed with appropriate honor in the three institutions during Bible Week.

Sir John J. Craig, G.C.H.S., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was in charge of program arrangements. The Most Reverend Paul C. Schulte, of the Diocese of Leavenworth, was celebrant of the Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Annunciation Chapel at ten o'clock on Bible Sunday. The speakers were: Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara, D.D.; Reverend Patrick Cummins, O.S.B.; Reverend Kevin Smyth, O.F.M.Cap.; Reverend Henry Willmering, S.J., and Reverend Christopher Rehwinkel, O.F.M.

The Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Hara, Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City, presided over the commission appointed by the hierarchy of the United States to prepare the revised version of the New Testament.

Visitors to the college campus during Bible Week had the added privilege of seeing *incunabula* and rare books loaned for the occasion. From St. Anthony's Monastery, Marathon, Wisconsin, a copy of the Nuremberg Bible, printed in 1483, was made available for display; through the courtesy of the Friedsam Library, St. Bonaventure, New York, copies of the *Glossaria Ordinaria* of Nicolas of Lyra, printed in 1498, a *Proverbia Salominis*, 1548, a "Breeches" Bible of 1611, Pearl Bible, 1658, and twenty similar items were all included in the exhibit.

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

Requests for exhibit material have been received in large number during the past several weeks from schools, colleges, parish libraries, and the literature committees of the various Catholic lay groups

who have entered into the spirit of Catholic Press Month. However, the most elaborate display of Catholic literature is inadequate unless it is made meaningful by a direct effort to arouse the observer's curiosity and interest in the truth which he must read. His Holiness, Pope Pius XI, named Francis de Sales the patron saint of the Catholic press, following which the Bishops of the United States marked the feast day of the Saint as the opening of a month of special observance of the work of the Catholic press. The successful exhibit must stimulate circulation of Catholic literature.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKSHOP BECOMES DISTRIBUTOR OF VISUAL LEARNING GUIDES

Effective December 15, 1943, Scholastic Bookshop, a division of the Scholastic Corporation, became exclusive national distributors and sales representatives for National Audio-Visual Council Visual Learning Guides.

The National Audio-Visual Council, Inc., 160 North La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois, will continue to edit and publish the Visual Learning Guides and all sales and shipments will be handled by Scholastic Magazines, 220 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

DETROIT'S CATHOLIC LIBRARY

(Concluded from page 148)

are on the proper molding of the youth of today. With the opening of this branch East Detroit will soon feel the influence of this powerhouse for good, this monument to Catholic thought which received the Papal blessing from Pope Pius XI in 1937.

A rather significant note might be inserted here. It was nine years ago that

Monsignor Doyle, then Chancellor of the Diocese, started us on our way, and it is today that Monsignor Edward J. Hickey, Secretary and Treasurer of the library and Chancellor of the Archdiocese, helps to keep us going. He has done much to encourage the work of the library, donate to its shelves and pray for its success.

The Van Antwerp Catholic Library is now one of the potent centers of active Catholic life in Detroit with its doors ever open to all—ever ready to do Christ's work—that part which must be done by the lay apostolate of the Church.

KATHERINE BURTON, DELINEATOR OF PERSONALITIES

(Continued from page 135)

characters to come to life again in conversations based upon authentic records. It is a genre peculiarly her own whereby the author is enabled to write in a tone of familiarity which gives the reader a pleasing sense of intimacy with the subject. That such a technique has its dangers the critics have not failed to point out. The scholar desires to know which quotations have been taken from documents and which have been substituted as equivalents. The exacting historian finds the omission of footnotes and citation of sources disconcerting. In the last analysis, however, a piece of writing must be appraised by the purpose for which it is written and the audience it is intended to reach. It is patent that Katherine Burton has used her literary ability to popularize a few of the fascinating personalities of the Catholic Church in America who have been neglected or too meagerly treated in literature hitherto. Simplicity of diction, sympathetic understanding, and warm appreciation of her subjects inform all her writings. Mrs. Burton's works are not presented as definitive biog-

ographies for the enlightenment of the theologian, the philosopher, and the historian. She has written rather for that vast multitude, the average reader, Catholic and non-Catholic, who are repelled by a bulwark of documentation and scholarly *impedimenta*. For these Katherine Burton has been eminently successful in portraying "beyond doubt and terror how strong is goodness".

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In no strange land. Longmans, 1942.

Paradise planters. Longmans, 1939.

Sorrow built a bridge. Longmans, 1937.

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Wendt. *Lords of the levee*. Bobbs. (1; 4) IIa

Whitaker. *We cannot escape history*. Macmillan. (3—15,000) IV

White. *Queens die proudly*. Harcourt. (1) IIb

White. *They were expendable*. Harcourt. (1) IIa

Whittaker. *We thought we heard the angels sing*. Dutton. (2; 4) I

Willkie. *One world*. Simon. (1,219,621) *Time* (Dec. 20, 1943) gives sales of 1,530,000, possibly including reprint edition.

Wolfe. *Thomas Wolfe's letters to his mother*. Scribner. (1) (Not reviewed)

Wolfert. *Battle for the Solomons*. Houghton. (2) I

Woollcott. *As you were*. Viking. (2) I

Woollcott. *Long, long ago*. Viking. (2) (85,000 copies in print—*P. W.*, Dec. 4, 1943) I

Wriston. *Challenge to freedom*. Harper. (1) I

Wylie. *Generation of vipers*. Farrar. (2) (Not reviewed)

Ziemer. *Education for death*. Oxford. (1) IIa

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Heagney, Harold J. *Blockade runner*. (Father Tabb). Ill. by John Giniano. Longmans, 1939. 187p. \$1.50.

Husslein, Joseph. *Heroines of Christ*. Bruce, 1939. 186p. \$2.00.

Jewett, Sophie. *God's troubadour; St. Francis of Assisi*. Crowell, 1940. 94p. \$2.00.

Kellogg, Mrs. Charlotte (Hoffman). *Girl who ruled a kingdom*. Ill. by Angela Pruszyńska. Appleton, 1938. 154p. \$2.00.

Kelly, Eric Philbrook. *Trumpeter of Krakow*. Ill. by Angela Pruszyńska. Macmillan, 1938. 318 p. \$2.50.

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Kiely, Mary. *O'Donel of Destiny*. Ill. by Victor Dowling. Oxford, 1939. 227p. \$2.00.

Maynard, Sara. *Princess poverty; the story of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi*. Longmans, 1941. 124p. \$2.00.

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Newcomb, Covelle. *Black fire; a story of Henri Christophe*. Ill. by Avery Johnson. Longmans, 1940. 275p. \$2.50.

Newcomb, Covelle. *Red hat*. Ill. by Addison Burbank. Longmans, 1941. 278p. \$2.00.

Newcomb, Covelle. *Vagabond in velvet*. (Cervantes). Longmans, 1942. 262p. \$2.50.

Oman, Carola Mary Anima (Lenanton). *Alfred, King of the English*. Ill. by E. Boye Unden. Dutton, 1939. 246p. \$2.00.

Roos, Ann. *Man of Molokai*. Lippincott, 1943. 254p. \$2.00.

Summers, Richard Aldrich. *Devil's highway*. (Father Kino). Ill. by Nils Hogner. T. Nelson, 1937. 299p. \$1.75.

Talbot, Francis X. *Saint among savages; the life of Isaac Jogues*. Harper, 1935. 466p. \$3.50.

Van Sweringen, Sigrid. *White noon*. Benziger. Benziger, 1936. 362p. \$2.50.

Van Sferingen, Sigrid. *White noon*. Benziger, 1939. 360p. \$2.50.

Windeatt, Mary Fabyan. *My name is Thomas; story of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Abbey, 1943. \$1.00.

New Books

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Catholic Book Club—February

OBERMEYER, ROSEMARY. *Golden apples of the sun*. Dutton, 1944. 282p. \$2.50.

"The search for happiness is a universal one, found everywhere, at all times. The modes of approach are varied. For some Saratoga Springs and Palm Beach are of the essence; for others it lies in the distillation of the wisdom of five-foot shelves of books; complete or partial retirement from the material is the choice of many. *Golden apples of the sun* depicts the joys of the simple life in which close human attachments are primary.

"... simple in plot, written with a deep feeling for words and rhythm. . . . This is a novel that should have a family appeal although an occasional word may shock the very prudish."

Best Sellers 3:156

Biography

HAFFERT, JOHN M. *From a morning prayer*. Preface by William A. Donaghy, S.J. Scapular Press, 1943. xiii, 151p. \$2.00.

The author, an inspired and zealous apostle of Mary, relates the remarkable experiences that attended the spread of devotion to the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. For such was his vocation, and intent on fulfilling the Will of God, he was resigned even to sacrificing the happy life at Carmel when he had to return to the world to seek the realization of the work that had been made known to him in the Cloister through a humble and saintly lay-brother. Since Pearl Harbor, the work of the Scapular Apostolate has progressed remarkably. *From a morning prayer* should add stimulus to its universal appeal.

Education

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME. *Aids to Will training in Christian education*. Pustet, 1943. xvi, 237p. \$2.50.

Aiming at moral leadership the authors outline the principles and means that lie in character education. Part One is concerned with foundations and general principles; Part Two, with building right motives by cultivating right attitudes, with special attention to particular attitudes; Part Three, with cultivating good emotions; Part Four, with the theory of Will;

Part Five, with facts about habits. An interesting feature of the book is the detailed chart showing how the Will is influenced. A teacher's manual to accompany the text is in preparation.

Literature

FEENEY, LEONARD. *In towns and little towns; a book of poems*. 4th ed. America Press, 1943. 114p.

Father Feeney said that *In towns and little towns* originally appeared a long time ago—1927. Therefore, it is scarcely necessary to introduce the poet. Those who are his readers will be especially happy to see samples of his later poems added in this edition. Those who are not acquainted with his work will be delightfully rewarded in finding a book which is not elegant. Instead—use "The Rivals", "The Geranium", "The Teller's Wife", "At the Consecration" as examples—his spirit is for the people. Read "A Priest's Offertory", "The Holy One of Mary", "Angelicus" and discover a spirit, loftier, but still for the people.

Josephine Savaro

POWER, SISTER MARY JAMES. *In the name of the bee. The significance of Emily Dickinson*. Sheed and Ward, 1943. xi, 138p. \$2.00.

In the name of the bee, from its debonair yet meaningful title and its gay field-colored jacket to its last page, is Emily Dickinson as the careful study of her poetry and the facts of her life and physical appearance reveal her. The work like its subject may be described as "much in little". It is paradoxical like Emily herself in that it is at once light and dainty, simple and easy, grave and deep, restrained and purposeful. Although at times Sister Mary James seems to read a little of her own Catholicity into the poet's work, this does not mean that she fails to establish her major thesis which is the genuine Catholicity of Emily Dickinson's mind and heart.

Philosophy

MOORE, DOM THOMAS VERNER, O.S.B. *The nature and treatment of mental disorders*. Foreword by Edward A. Strecker, M.D. New York, Grune & Stratton, 1943. 312p.

By this scholarly and well-documented contribution to our knowledge of mental disorders, Dr. Moore has answered the demand for a sound psychology and psychopathology to underlie the science of psychiatry and to guide in the interpretations of its findings.

The excellent manner by which the book, from the description of highly interesting and pertinent cases, leads back to psychiatric principles causes one to judge that it will be found most useful to physicians, medical students, nurses and social workers who are anxious to clarify their psychiatric concepts.

John Coniff, S.J.

CONSTANTINO, S. A., Jr. *Amen, amen.* Harper, 1944. 184p. \$2.00.

This is a "popular presentation" of some of the main points in Natural Theology and Ethics. The existence of God and a few of His attributes are discussed; then a few ethical conclusions are drawn in the fields of "sex, money, and religion". It is written in a racy, very colloquial style, chosen, no doubt, to hold those readers who might be frightened away by the subject matter; but at the same time, it is hardly adapted to this very subject matter. The treatment of sex is rather realistic ("engaging candor", reads the blurb). It is entirely from the negative point of view; nothing is said of the virtue of purity, which, for weighty reasons, has furnished the traditional approach to this subject. The author here parts with tradition to his own loss. Perhaps the book may be of some use to the "seventy-eight million non-churchgoing Americans" to whom it frequently refers; but (the blurb notwithstanding) it is definitely not for "young America", at least not that part of it of high school and college age.

Richard Neu, S.J.

Religion

CARRABINE, MARTIN, S.J. and CECILIA, SISTER M., O.S.B. *The parish turns red.* Queen's Work, 1944. 46p. \$0.10.

The meaning of Catholic Action in a parish. Conversational.

E. P. W.

CONNELL, FRANCIS J., C.S.S.R. *God—man's first need.* Paulist, 1943. 30p. \$0.05.

Man's need of God "as the First Truth to be believed, as the Final Goal to be sought, as the Supreme Lawgiver to be obeyed"—Foundations for true peace in the post-war world. No. 1.

E. P. W.

GANNON, ROBERT I., S.J. *God in education.* Paulist, 1943. 30p. \$0.05.

The errors in education that have resulted from lack of the religious element.—Foundations for true peace in the post-war world. No. 3.

E. P. W.

GILLIS, JAMES M., C.S.P. *God in government.* Paulist, 1943. 31p. \$0.05.

A review of godless governments and errors about God which shows why He must be in government.—Foundations for true peace in the post-war world. No. 6.

E. P. W.

LOVASIK, LAWRENCE G., S.V.D. *Eucharistic heart-talks with Jesus.* Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration, 1942. Pp. 64. \$0.10.

Meditations and prayers. Contents: The Real Presence. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Holy Communion. Eucharistic friendship. Splendor of the Eucharistic gift. Heart talk with Mary. Eucharistic novena.

McGUIRE, REV. JOHN P. *The Mass presented to non-Catholics.* A brief study of the Mass for those who accept the teachings of the Bible. Bruce, 1944. 79p. \$0.50.

Simply written and well-illustrated explanation of the general concept of the Mass as a sacrifice, the vestments, and the various positions of the Mass-liturgy. Half-tone photographs exemplify the major acts of the priest.

E. P. W.

MALLOY, JOSEPH I., C.S.P. *Six instructions in Catholic beliefs.* Paulist, 1943. 32p. \$0.05.

A doctrinal catechism for adults which includes supporting Biblical quotations.

E. P. W.

The Mass year. A Mass guide for 1944 with liturgical reflections. Grail, St. Meinrad, Ind., 1943. 128p. \$0.30.

Contains reflections on the Sunday collects by Sister M. Gonzaga of the Ursuline College of Cleveland.

E. P. W.

MUTCH, (Rev.) FRANCIS JOSEPH. *Little prayers with plenary indulgences.* Our Sunday Visitor, 1942. Pp. 22. \$0.10.

Revised, enlarged edition of *Aspirations and Short Prayers Enriched with Plenary Indulgences.* A companion booklet to *Indulgence Aid.*

The National Catholic Almanac, 1944. Compiled by the Franciscan clerics of Holy Name College, Washington, D. C. St. Anthony's Guild, 1944. Paper, \$1.00; cloth, \$1.50.

The thirty-eighth volume of this handy and invaluable annual continues the arrangement of previous volumes. A considerable new portion is devoted to military affairs and World War II.

E. P. W.

O'BRIEN, JOHN A. *God in the home.* Paulist, 1943. 32p. \$0.05.

The home as "the basic unit of society, the foundation of civilization and the place where reform to be effective must begin". A review of the family in ancient and modern times and a place for rebuilding it today.—Foundations for true peace in the post-war world. No. 2.

E. P. W.

PARSONS, WILFRID, S.J. *God in economic life.* Paulist, 1943. 32p. \$0.05.

Modern errors pertaining to private property, the production of goods, and their exchange and consumption.—Foundations for true peace in the post-war world. No. 5.

E. P. W.

PIUS XII, POPE. *Mystici corporis Christi.* Encyclical letter on the Mystical Body of Christ. With discussion club outline by Gerald C. Treacy, S.J. Paulist, 1943. 48p. \$0.05.

How the faithful unite with Christ through the Church. Also treats of errors in interpreting this doctrine.

E. P. W.

ROSS, J. ELLIOTT, C.S.P. "Stop, look, and listen." Paulist, 1943. 32p. \$0.05.

Advice to army men to consider carefully before they marry.

E. P. W.

SLAVIN, ROBERT J., O.P. *Christian heroism.* Our Sunday Visitor, 1942. Pp. 47. \$0.20.

Catholic Hour addresses, April 12-May 17, 1942. Contents: Dedication to courage. Christian courage. Courage of heroes. Courage of the undaunted. Courage of endurance. Courage for victory.

SMITH, WILLIAM J., S.J. *Is it Catholic action?* Paulist, 1942. Pp. 132. \$0.05.

A test of the spirit and intensity of Catholic Action.

THOMPSON, BLANCHE. *The oldest story. The story of the Bible for young people.* Illustrated by Kate Sereby. Bruce, 1943. xii, 241p. \$2.50.

The Bible story told for young people, which the author introduces to them as "just a beginning to give you some idea of the many treasures to be found in the Holy Bible". The New Testament conforms to the New Revision. In both Old and New Testaments, the verse form has been changed to simple narrative prose.

TREACY, REV. GERALD C., S.J. *God in society.* Paulist, 1943. 32p. \$0.05.

The meaning of law and order. Discusses some social errors, such as, war, divorce and birth control.—Foundations for true peace in a post-war world. No. 4.

E. P. W.

WYSE, ALEXANDER, O.F.M. *Moral and social questions.* Arranged for high school religious discussion groups and study clubs. St. Anthony Guild Press, 1943. 300p. \$1.00.

This outline is a textbook on the commandments of God and of the Church arranged for discussion clubs and study groups. Fourteen supplementary chapters apply moral teaching to social problems, such as, human rights, family, State, war, property, crime, labor, education and society.

E. P. W.

Sociology

JULIANA, SISTER MARY. *Pattern for tomorrow.* Bruce, 1943. 128p. \$2.00.

A narrative portrayal of the rural problem in which the principles of the Catholic Rural Movement are made known through actual situations and in a manner that will bring the truth home to old and young.

Travel

HOLISHER, DESIDER. *The eternal city Rome of the popes.* Introduction by the Reverend James M. Gillis, C.S.P. New York, Frederick Ungar, 1943. 160p. \$3.00.

This book combines historical and informational data with magnificent photographic illustrations, many of which are released for the first time. The photographs are accompanied immediately by their respective narrative comments, making the book easier to follow and more entertainingly read. An interesting chapter on the Vatican library is included.

WANTED

Horn Book

- v. 1, no. 1-4, 1925
- v. 2, no. 1-3, 1926
- v. 3, no. 1, 2, 4, 1927
- v. 4, no. 1, 4, 1928
- v. 5, no. 1, 1929
- v. 8, no. 1, 3, 1932
- v. 9, no. 1, 1933
- v. 10, no. 2, 3, 1934

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